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PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

COUNTRY

USSR

SUBJECT

Soviet Border Guards at Port Areas/Border Guard Installations

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT #

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1. The following procedure applies when a ship is controlled by USSR border guards and customs officers upon departure and on return of vessels to port: A vessel cables the port authority giving its approximate time of arrival. Upon arrival of the vessel, two border guards are posted on the pier with orders to make sure that nobody enters or leaves the vessel. When the vessel docks, the port physician boards her. He checks the state of health of all shipboard personnel together with the ship's doctor, if the vessel has one, otherwise with the captain. After the port physician's departure, customs officers (usually five or six men) and USSR border guards (seven to eight men) board the vessel. The First Mate then gives the command "Sbor Kommandu" (ship-crew's assembly) and the entire crew, except the men on watch, go to the "Red Square" or the saloon and the border guards proceed to check all documents, i.e., seamen's passports. After that, customs officers and border guards (officers and non-coms) form from four to six groups and each group, assisted by a member of the crew and in possession of keys to all closets and lockers in the section the group is assigned to, makes a thorough search of the entire vessel. During the search, all other crewmen are kept isolated in one room on the vessel. When the search is finished, border guards and customs officers leave the ship and the crew is free to go ashore also.
2. There are three watchtowers manned by USSR border guards in Odessa:
 - (a) Watchtower in Odessa Naval Harbor
 - (b) Port Nadzor Tower in Odessa
 - (c) Pilot Service Tower opposite Passenger Pier in Odessa:

There is one watchtower manned by USSR border guards in Batum. It is the Port Nadzor Tower at the entrance to the harbor.
3. Everyone of the above-listed towers is equipped with searchlight installations. These searchlight installations are also manned by USSR border guards.

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